

Considerations for Analysis of IPEDS Data

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Module Objectives

Describe the analysis considerations for data collected through the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, including:

- Institutional Characteristics (IC; includes identification and Header)
- Enrollment Fall (EF) and 12-Month (E12)
- Completions (C)
- Graduation Rates and Outcome Measures (GR, GR200, and OM)
- Admissions (ADM)
- Student Financial Aid (SFA)
- Human Resources (HR)
- Finance (F)
- Academic Libraries (AL)

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Using Institutional Characteristics (IC) Data

Control and level determine:

- Which forms institutions receive
 - Institutions of different controls (e.g., public, private for-profit, private not-for-profit) receive different finance forms
 - When analyzing finance data for institutions of different controls, it is important to know that variables differ across sectors
 - Institution level impacts data collected
 - 4-year institutions have some different variables than 2-year institutions
 - Non-degree granting institutions have somewhat fewer variables
 - See the [Archived Survey Library](#) for details
- The sector of the institutions (e.g., 4-year public)



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Using IC Data: The Calendar System

- Institution's calendar system determines reporter type, which impacts almost every other survey component
 - Academic: Charge tuition based on a portion of an academic year, such as a semester or trimester
 - Program: Charge a particular cost for an entire program (e.g., cosmetology and truck driving schools)
 - Hybrid: Enroll students year-round, but charge tuition like an academic year reporter
- When analyzing tuition and cost of attendance across a group of institutions that includes both academic reporters and program reporters, be sure to select both the academic year and the program year variables



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Using IC Data: Tuition Versus Cost of Attendance



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Using Fall Enrollment (EF) Data

- May be more useful for academic reporters than for program reporters that enroll students year-round
- Students taking only non-credit courses are not counted
- Age reporting is required in odd years only
- Migration reporting is required in even years only
- Retention rates are calculated only for full-time-first-time and part-time-first-time undergraduates
 - For bachelor's degree-granting institutions, only bachelor's cohort is reported
- [Changes in race/ethnicity categories](#) beginning with 2008-09 Collection Year
 - Implemented on a gradual, structured basis through 2011-12
 - When analyzing trends in data before and after 2007, remember that race/ethnicity variables have changed over time

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Using 12-month Enrollment (E12) Data

- May be more useful for program reporters than for academic reporters
- Credit hours (generally reported by academic reporters)
- Contact hours (generally reported by program reporters)
- Two full-time equivalent enrollment numbers ([FTE](#)) are collected, which are designed to provide a single enrollment figure combining full-time and part-time students:
 - IPEDS FTE (NCES standard calculation)
 - 900 contact hours used for program reporters
 - Institution FTE (institutions allowed to submit their own FTE)
 - Many beauty colleges require 1200 contact hours
- Changes in race/ethnicity categories

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Using Completions Data

- Completions data are part of a very large file
- Data are collected by:
 - 10 award levels
 - 9 race/ethnicity categories
 - Hundreds of Classification of Instructional Program (CIP) codes
- Changes in race/ethnicity categories
- Changes in [Classification of Instructional Program \(CIP\) codes](#)
- New variable added in 2014-15 about distance education option for a program

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Using Graduation Rates Data

- Only applicable to full-time-first-time students
- Calculation based on Student Right to Know Act
- Changes in race/ethnicity categories
 - GR200 are not affected since survey does not collect data by race/ethnicity
- Graduation rate calculation calculated automatically within survey
- Student Right to Know Graduation Rate calculation:

$$\frac{\text{Number of students graduating within 150\% of normal time}}{\text{Number of students in initial cohort – standard exclusions}}$$

- Different rates are calculated for different cohorts

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Graduation Rates Cohorts: 2013-14 Example

Institution Type	Rates	GR	GR200
4-year			
Bachelor's cohort	100, 125, 150, 200	2007	2005
Non-bachelor's	150	2007	2005
2-year	100, 150, 200	2010	2009
Less-than-2-year	100, 150, 200	2010	2009

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Using Outcome Measures Data (First availability in mid-2016)

- 4 cohorts from 8 years prior to data collection:
 - Full-time-first-time
 - Part-time-first-time
 - Full-time-non-first-time-entering
 - Part-time-non-first-time-entering
- Not collected by race/ethnicity or gender
- Number of students who:
 - Received an award
 - Did not receive an award, who are still enrolled at reporting institution
 - Did not receive an award, who subsequently enrolled at another institution
 - Did not receive an award, and whose subsequent enrollment status is unknown

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Using Admissions Data

- Only applicable to institutions that do not have open admission policies
- Applicable to first-time students
- Prior to 2014-15, institutions could choose to report for either the current year or the prior year
 - Select “reporting period” variable within Admissions to know which year was reported



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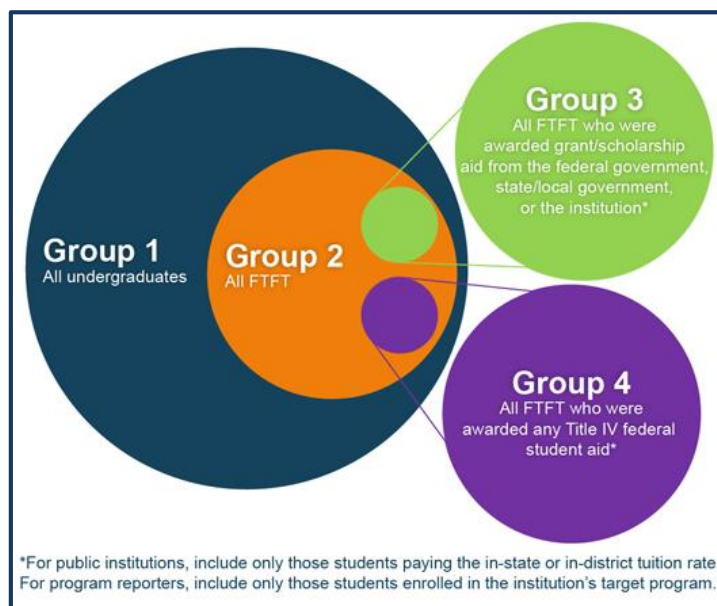
Using Student Financial Aid Data

- Many changes since 2012:
 - New variables
 - Starting in 2014-15, data on Post-9/11 GI Bill and DoD Tuition Assistance Program benefits collected for both undergraduate and graduate students
- There are four different groups of students for which a majority of SFA data are reported, and different levels of data are reported for each group



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Student Financial Aid Groups



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Using Human Resources Data

- Changes in race/ethnicity categories
- Changes in [Standard Occupational Classifications \(SOC\) codes](#)
 - Codes that assist institutions in classifying employees and jobs for statistical reporting
 - IPEDS Human Resources survey component revised for 2012-13



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Using Finance Data

Different data collected depending on institution characteristics:

- Control
- [Accounting standards](#)
 - Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB)
 - Used by most public institutions (Penn State is exception)
 - Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB)
 - Used by most private not-for-profit institutions
 - For-profit institutions have their own reporting standards



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Using Finance Data (Continued)

- Scholarship and fellowship data
 - Required for public institutions that use GASB
- Student grants data
 - Required for private not-for-profit and for-profit institutions
- Equity
 - Required for for-profit institutions
- For-profit entities provide more detailed information, starting in 2014-15



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Using Academic Libraries Data

- 2014-15 is first year of collection in IPEDS
 - Previously collected by NCES through the [Academic Libraries Survey \(ALS\)](#)
 - [Resources to compare ALS and AL data](#)
- Degree-granting institutions only
- Different reporting requirements, depending on expenditures



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Module Summary

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Module Resources

- [Archived Survey Library](#)
- [Race/Ethnicity Changes Resources](#)
- [Full-Time Equivalent \(FTE\) calculation](#)
- [Classification of Instructional Program \(CIP\) codes](#)
- [Standard Occupational Classification System \(SOC\) Resources](#)
- [Accounting standards](#)
- [Academic Libraries Survey \(ALS\)](#)
- [Resources to compare ALS and AL data](#)